



INSIGHTS

108th Congress

February 11, 2003

*Also available on the FEMP Home Page at
www.eren.doe.gov/femp/resources/insights.html.*

[Weekly Summary](#)

[New Legislation](#)

[Committee Activity](#)

[Administration
Initiatives](#)

[House](#)

[Senate](#)

[FY 2003](#)

[Hearings Schedule](#)

[Appropriations Chart](#)

INSIGHTS is prepared expressly for the Department of Energy's Office of Federal Energy Management Programs (FEMP). The purpose of ***INSIGHTS*** is to provide FEMP management staff with timely information on legislative activities relevant to the program. ***INSIGHTS*** is prepared for FEMP by Energetics, Incorporated, (202) 479-2748.

I. WEEKLY SUMMARY

CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE *for the week of February 10*

HOUSE

This week's committee highlights include authorization hearings on the President's FY 2004 Budget Request for:

- Department of Veterans' Affairs
- National Defense
- Department of Transportation

SENATE

Key Senate activities of interest this week include authorization hearings on the President's FY 2004 Budget Request for:

- Department of the Interior
- Department of Defense
- Department of Transportation
- National Park Service

FY 2003 APPROPRIATIONS

FY 2003 Continuing Resolution On February 7, President Bush signed *H.J. Res. 18*. The bill extends the operation of Federal programs without FY 2003 appropriations bills through February 20.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES/VOTES

FY 2003 Omnibus Appropriations House and Senate conferees began marking up the omnibus bill on Monday, February 10. The bill combines 11 of the remaining 13 annual appropriations bill in to one major bill. Congressional leaders hope to complete work on the \$390 billion bill this week, anticipating a vote in the House by Wednesday, February 12 and the Senate by Friday, February 14. Negotiators anticipate an across-the-board cut among the agencies impacted by the bill; the reductions will accommodate additional funding requirements for programs such as drought relief and education.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

II. COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

HOUSE

Comprehensive Energy Legislation House Republican leaders from the Committee on Energy and Commerce are reportedly working quickly to draft a new energy bill with the hope of voting on such a bill in April. The new draft, which is expected to retain many of the provisions from *H.R. 4* (introduced during the 107th Congress), will also include a section on utility restructuring. *H.R. 4* included no provisions on restructuring.

FY 2004 Budget Testifying before the House and Senate Committees on the Budget on February 4-5, Mitchell Daniels, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, predicted that the Federal deficit will peak this year and subsequently drop. In his remarks, he provided an overview of the President's FY 2004 budget priorities, which include the following:

The President plans to prosecute the war on terror relentlessly... The President's Budget provides \$380 billion for the war on terror and the continued rebuilding of our national security capabilities. Spending on domestic homeland security is also given top priority, with spending rising at the fastest percentage rate of any major category.

The President's third priority is to reinvigorate an American economy that has grown for five consecutive quarters, but at a rate that he deems far too slow. To this end the President proposes a major growth and jobs plan, the third of his Presidency. Below these three transcendent objectives, the President urges greater spending on a host of essential activities: veterans' programs, the education of our disadvantaged and disabled children, the alleviation of Africa's AIDS tragedy, **research on a pollution-free automobile**, and so on.

House Committee on the Budget Chairman Jim Nussle (R/IA) said he considers the budget a "responsible blueprint for governing".

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

SENATE

Comprehensive Energy Legislation Pete Domenici (R/NM), Chair of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has scheduled the first in a series of hearings to develop comprehensive energy legislation. The first hearing, scheduled for February 13, will focus on the availability and price of oil in the world market. Refer to the hearing chart for details.

President's FY 2004 Budget James Inhofe (R/OK), Chair of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, released a statement praising the President's FY 2004 budget request for focusing on national security and environmental priorities, including the Clear Skies Initiative and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Chairman Inhofe said, "Overall this is a fiscally responsible budget that meets our most pressing environmental and national security needs...It goes a long way in protecting the homeland and continuing the nation's solid record of environmental progress over the last 30 years."

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

ATTACHMENT A

Status of FY03 Appropriations Bills (In Billions)

HOUSE

SENATE

<i>Jurisdiction/ FY 2003 Budget Request</i>	<i>302(b) Allocation s/ Approved Funding Level</i>	<i>Bill No.</i>	<i>Full Cmte.</i>	<i>Floor</i>	<i>Conf.</i>	<i>302(b) Allocation s/ Approved Funding Level</i>	<i>Bill No.</i>	<i>Full Cmte.</i>	<i>Floor</i>	<i>Conf.</i>
Agriculture \$17.051	\$ 17.601	HR 5263	7/11	7/26		\$ 17.980	S 2801	7/25		
Commerce \$ 40.333	\$ 40.726	-	7/18			\$ 43.475	S 2778	7/18		
Defense \$356.598	\$354.7	HR 5010	6/24	6/27	10/10	\$ 355.1	S Rpt 107- 213	7/18	8/1	10/16
Energy and Water Development \$25.149	\$ 26.027	HR 5431	9/05			\$ 26.300	S 27844	7/24		
Interior \$18.953	\$ 19.8	HR 5093	7/9	7/17		\$ 19.35	S. 2708	6/27		
Labor / HHS \$129.902	\$129.902	HR 5320				\$133.988	S 2766	7/18		
Military Construction \$ 9.541	\$ 10.083	HR 5011	6/24	6/27	10/2	\$ 10.622	S 2709	6/27	7/18	10/11
Transportation \$ 19.851	\$ 19.411	-	10/1			\$ 21.1	S 2808	7/25		
Treasury \$ 17.960	\$ 18.501	HR 5120	7/9	7/24		\$ 18.501	S 2740	7/16		
VA/HUD \$ 92.518	\$ 90.9	-	10/9			\$ 91.434	S 2797	7/25		
Continuing Resolution H J Res 18 (P.L. 108-5; Signed 2/7/03)				2/5/03					2/5/03	

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

IV. NEW LEGISLATION

(Note: Once a new bill is introduced, the Government Printing Office generally requires from several days to one week to make the bill available in print)

HOUSE

Number	Short title	Date	Sponsor	Status
H. R. 586	<i>Aeronautics Research and Development Revitalization Act of 2003</i>	February 5	John Larson (D/CT)	Referred to the Committee on Science
Provisions of Interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Directs NASA to establish an initiative to develop and demonstrate technologies to enable a 10 percent increase in fuel efficiency relating to specific fuel consumption, lift to drag ratio, and structural weight fraction in commercial service aircraft. ➤ Authorizes for Research and Development for the Federal Aviation Administration the following sums: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$366,100,000 for FY 2004 including \$30,000,000 for environment and energy projects and activities • \$410,000,000 for FY 2005 including \$37,500,000 for environment and energy projects and activities • \$462,000,000 for FY 2006 including \$47,000,000 for environment and energy projects and activities 				

SENATE

Number	Short title	Date	Sponsor	Status
S. 277	<i>Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Visitor Center Act</i>	February 4	Robert Bennett (R/UT)	Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Provisions of Interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Authorizes the Department of Interior to construct an Education and Administrative Center at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Box Elder County, Utah to provide a facility for the education through public programs and for administration purposes. ➤ Authorizes for the construction of the Education and Administrative Center \$11,000,000, in addition to donations of funds and services received from nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, and private citizens. 				

Number	Short title	Date	Sponsor	Status
S. 240	No Short Title	January 29	Peter Fitzgerald (R/IL)	Referred to the Committee on Finance
Provisions of Interest: ➤ Amends the <i>Internal Revenue Code of 1986</i> to allow for the allocation of a small ethanol producer credit to patrons of a cooperative.				

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

V. ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES

Hydrogen Fuel Initiative On February 6, President Bush gave a speech on Energy Independence at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC. In his remarks, the President highlighted his energy-related proposals, which includes the Clear Skies and Hydrogen Fuel Initiatives as well as fusion research to support the development of hydrogen. The President told a crowd of Federal and industry officials:

I laid out a comprehensive energy plan last year...there was a lot of debate about it...It didn't pass the Congress. I expect it to pass this year. It's a plan that will encourage conservation. It's a plan that will increase production at home in an environmentally sensitive way. It is a plan which will modernize electricity delivery systems. It is a plan which is needed. It is a plan needed for economic security. It is a plan needed for national security. I want to sign a comprehensive energy bill this year.

Hydrogen fuel cells represent one of the most encouraging innovative technologies of our era. And if you are interested in our environment and if you're interested in doing what's right for the American people, you're tired of the same old endless struggles that seem to produce nothing but noise and high bills, let us promote hydrogen fuel cells as a way to advance into the 21st century.

One of the greatest results of using hydrogen power, of course, will be energy independence for this nation. It's important for our country to understand...that we import over half of our crude oil stocks from abroad. And sometimes we import that oil from countries that don't particularly like us...it jeopardizes our national security to be dependent on sources of energy from countries that don't care for America, what we stand for, what we love. It's also a matter of economic security, to be dependent on energy from volatile regions of the world. Our economy becomes subject to price shocks or shortages or disruptions, or one time in our history, cartels.

So, I am asking Congress to spend \$1.2 billion on a new national commitment to take hydrogen cars from the laboratory to the showroom. And as I said in my State of the Union, the idea is to see that a child born today will be driving a car, as his or her first car, which will be powered by hydrogen and pollution-free.

VI. HEARINGS SCHEDULE

HOUSE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

No hearings of interest have been scheduled.

HOUSE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/Location
February 11 – Committee on Veterans Affairs	Chris Smith (R/NJ)	Hearing – Hearing on the President's FY 2004 Budget Request for the Department of Veterans Affairs	TBA	10:00 a.m. Room 334 Cannon Office Building
February 12 – Committee on Armed Services (NEW)	Duncan Hunter (R/CA)	Hearing – Hearing on FY 2004 Budget Request for National Defense Authorization	Thomas E. White, Secretary of the Army General Eric K. Shinseki, Army Chief of Staff	10:00 a.m. Room 218 Rayburn Office Building
February 12 – Committee on the Budget (NEW)	Jim Nussle (R/IA)	Hearing – President's FY 2004 Budget Request for the Department of Transportation	Michael Jackson, Deputy Secretary of Transportation	10:00 a.m. Room 210 Cannon Office Building
February 13 – Committee on Science (NEW)	Sherwood Boehlert (R/NY)	Hearing – President's FY 2004 Budget Request for DOE's Office of Science Programs and other programs such as new efforts to develop hydrogen fuel	John Marburger, Director of DOE's Office of Science and Technology Policy; Robert Card, Under Secretary for DOE; Samuel Bodman, Deputy Secretary of Commerce; Rita Colwell, Director of the National Science Foundation	10:00 a.m. Room 2318 Rayburn Office Building

SENATE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

No hearings of interest have been scheduled.

SENATE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/Location
February 11 – Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Pete Dominici (R/NM)	Hearing – President's FY 2004 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior	TBA	10:00 a.m. Room 366 Dirksen Office Building
February 11 – Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (NEW)	Pete Dominici (R/NM)	Hearing – To consider the nomination of Joseph T. Kelliher to serve as a FERC Commissioner	N/A	2:30 p.m. Room 216 Hart Office Building
February 13 – Committee on Armed Services (RESCHEDULED)	John Warner (R/VA)	Hearing – President's FY 2004 Budget Request for the Department of Defense and the Future Years Defense Program	Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense Richard Myers, Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Air Force	9:30 A.M. Room 216 Hart Office Building
February 13 – Committee on the Budget (NEW)	Don Nickles (R/OK)	Hearing – President's FY 2004 Budget Request for the Department of Transportation	Michael Jackson, Deputy Secretary of Transportation	2:30 p.m. Room 608 Dirksen Office Building
February 13 – Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (NEW)	Pete Dominici (R/NM)	Hearing – President's FY 2004 Budget Request for the National Park Service	Mark Rey, Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Agriculture Dale Bosworth, Chief, U.S. Forest Service	10:00 a.m. Room 366 Dirksen Office Building

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/Location
February 25 – Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Pete Dominici (R/NM)	Hearing – President's FY 2004 Budget Request for the Department of Energy	TBA	10:00 a.m. Room 366 Dirksen Office Building
February 27 – Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Pete Dominici (R/NM)	Hearing – Natural Gas Supply and Prices	TBA	2:30 p.m. Room 366 Dirksen Office Building
February 27 – Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Pete Dominici (R/NM)	Hearing – Energy Production on Federal Lands	TBA	10:00 a.m. Room 366 Dirksen Office Building
March 6 – Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Pete Dominici (R/NM)	Hearing – Energy Use in the Transportation Sector	TBA	10:00 a.m. Room 216 Hart Office Building
March 11 – Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Pete Dominici (R/NM)	Hearing – Federal Programs for Energy Efficiency and Conservation	TBA	Time TBA Room 366 Dirksen Office Building

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS/FLOOR VOTES

Activity	Issue	Comments
Conference Committee Negotiations (NEW)	FY 2003 Omnibus Appropriations	Committee mark up scheduled for February 10, 2003 House vote anticipated on February 12 Senate vote anticipated by February 14

[Back to Table of Contents](#)